

Message Text

SECRET

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PPDC, IN

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER,
AUGUST 30, 1978

1. THE FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER FROM PRIME
MINISTER DESAI TO THE PRESIDENT RECEIVED
SEPTEMBER 7. LETTER ITSELF IS DATED AUGUST 30.

2. BEGIN TEXT: MY DEAR PRESIDENT:

AMBASSADOR GOHEEN DELIVERED TO ME ON THE 21ST AUGUST YOUR
LETTER ON THE WEST ASIAN QUESTION. I MUCH APPRECIATE
YOUR KIND THOUGHT IN KEEPING ME INFORMED OF YOUR APPROACH
TO THE PROPOSED CAMP DAVID SUMMIT WITH PRESIDENT SADAT
AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN. YOU HAVE MY BEST WISHES FOR
THE SUCCESS OF YOUR MEETING. I KNOW THAT A GREAT DEAL
DEPENDS ON ITS OUTCOME.

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WE BOTH RECOGNIZED IN OUR DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON THE
IMPORTANCE OF THE EARLY RESOLUTION OF THIS DIFFICULT
INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM IN A VERY SENSITIVE AREA OF THE
WORLD WHICH INCLUDES COUNTRIES THAT HAVE RECENTLY ACHIEVED
GLOBAL IMPORTANCE AND HAVE BECOME CONSCIOUS OF IT. I
HAVE CONSISTENTLY HELD THAT ISRAEL MUST VACATE ALL OCCUPIED

ARAB TERRITORIES AND THE ARAB COUNTRIES AND ISRAEL MUST CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDE OF HOSTILITY TOWARDS EACH OTHER. I IMPRESSED THIS ON OUR RECENT VISITORS PRESIDENT ASSAD AND STAFF MAJOR JALLOU OF LIBYA BUT OBVIOUSLY WITH A LIMITED AMOUNT OF SUCCESS. NEVERTHELESS I FEEL THAT THIS IS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN BRING ABOUT A SETTLEMENT WHICH COULD OBTAIN SECURITY FOR ISRAEL WITHIN RECOGNIZED AND ESTABLISHED FRONTIERS. AT THE APPROPRIATE STAGE, INTERESTED NATIONS EITHER BY USING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE OR SOME OTHER METHOD AGREED BY THEM, COULD ASSIST IN THE PROCESS OF HAMMERING OUT AN ACCEPTABLE POLITICAL SOLUTION. FOR MY PART I HAVE ALWAYS FELT THAT IF THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION WITH THEIR UNDOUBTED INFLUENCE ON ONE PARTY OR THE OTHER COULD HARMONIZE THEIR VIEWPOINT, IT WOULD GREATLY IMPROVE THE CHANCES OF BRINGING ABOUT A SOLUTION. I HAVE IMPRESSED THIS RECENTLY IN A LETTER WHICH I HAVE SENT TO PRESIDENT BREZHNEV.

I AM GLAD YOUR INITIATIVE HAS BROUGHT THE PROMISE OF THIS FORTHCOMING SUMMIT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN. YOUR TASK IN GUIDING THIS MEETING IS AS DIFFICULT AND DELICATE AS IT IS IMPORTANT. I SINCERELY HOPE THAT YOUR EFFORTS AND THE WISDOM OF THESE LEADERS MAY LEAD TO A BREAK-THROUGH IN THE PRESENT STAGNANT PROCESS OF PROMOTING PEACE. I ASSURED AMBASSADOR GOHEEN THAT WHILE WE ARE NOT AT PRESENT IN A POSITION TO TAKE ANY
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CONCRETE INITIATIVES YOU CAN REST ASSURED THAT IF AT ANY TIME IT IS FELT THAT WE CAN PLAY A USEFUL ROLE, INDIA WILL BE WILLING TO ASSIST AND BEND ITS EFFORTS IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE.

WITH BEST WISHES, YOURS SINCERELY, (MORARJI DESAI), HIS EXCELLENCY MR. JIMMY CARTER, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WASHINGTON, DC.

END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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